



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,069	12/05/2001	Terry C. Ward	16949-8667	6924
21888	7590	04/07/2004		
THOMPSON COBURN, LLP			EXAMINER	
ONE US BANK PLAZA			OMGBA, ESSAMA	
SUITE 3500				ART UNIT
ST LOUIS, MO 63101				PAPER NUMBER
			3726	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

M

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/007,069	WARD, TERRY C.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Essama Omgbra	3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 10-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,18-20 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-9 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The indicated allowability of claim 1 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to MacDonald (US Patent 4,775,089). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 18-20, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacDonald (US Patent 4,775,089).

With regards to claim 1, MacDonald discloses an apparatus for removing nails from a tape, the apparatus comprising a guide 290 directing a path of movement of the tape through the apparatus, the guide having a transition end over which the tape passes as the tape moves through the apparatus, the guide transition being adapted to form a bend in the tape as the tape passes over the guide transition end, and a claw 318 adapted to engage the nail head as the nail head is exposed when the tape passes over the guide transition end, see column 3, lines 46-52 and figure 6.

For claims 18 and 19, MacDonald disclose a method comprising providing a tape 204 with nails extending therethrough, drawing the tape along a guide 290 in a manner so as to bend the tape and expose a head of a nail from the tape at a selected position

on the guide, the tape being in tension, see figure 6, and positioning a claw 318 adjacent the selected position of the guide to engage the nail head and remove the nail from the tape, see column 3, lines 46-52.

For claim 20, there is an angle between the claw and a path of travel of the tape as seen in figure 6 and there is relative motion between the claw and the tape as the nail is separated from the tape.

For claims 23 and 24, a relative direction of the travel of the tape is changed as it goes past the guide as seen in figure 6.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald.

MacDonald discloses a method as shown above except for winding the tape on a spool after the tape passes the claw and the nails are removed. However it is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to wind a tape on a spool for ease of storage. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have wound the tape of MacDonald on a spool after the

tape passes the claw as is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, for ease of storage.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 10-17 are allowed.
7. Claims 2-9 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgbia whose telephone number is (703) 305-2915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10-7:30) First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

eo *EO*  
April 3, 2004

